

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 12030 170937Z

15

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 12030

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, JA, KS, KN

SUBJ: JSP MISSION TO NORTH KOREA

REF: TOKYO 11385

SUMMARY: DURING VISIT TO PYONGYANG SEPTEMBER 5-13, JSP DELEGATION AND NORTH KOREAN HOSTS STRESSED NEED FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN PYONGYANG AND TOKYO, AND END TO COLLUSION BETWEEN JAPANESE REACTIONARY ELEMENTS AND ROK. PRESS HAS INITIALLY TENDED PORTRAY VISIT AS SUCCESSFUL ONE AND EMPHASIZED ACCOMODATING ATTITUDE OF NORTH KOREANS. END SUMMARY.

1. JSP DELEGATION HEADED BY CHAIRMAN TOMOMI NARITA VISITED NORTH KOREA SEPTEMBER 5-13 (REFTEL). ACCOMPANYING PRESS EMPHASIZED ESPECIALLY WARM WELCOME GIVEN VISITING SOCIALISTS AND NOTED THAT NARITA HAD THREE LENGTHY MEETINGS WITH KIM IL SUNG DURING STAY IN PYONGANG. IN ADDITION TO CONSULTATION
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 12030 170937Z

WITH NORTH KOREAN LEADERS, JAPANESE WERE HOSTED AT USUAL

ROUND OF BANQUETS AND RALLIES.

2. TWO SIDES WOUND UP TALKS WITH JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED SEPTEMBER 12. STATEMENT CALLED FOR EARLY REUNIFICATION OF NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA BY PEACEFUL MEANS. IT SAID SUCH REUNIFICATION SHOULD BE ACHIEVED BASED ON PRINCIPLES OF INDEPENDENCE, PEACE AND NATIONAL UNITY AGREED TO IN SEOUL-PYONGYANG AGREEMENT OF JULY 4, 1972. STATEMENT ALSO SAID THAT NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA MUST BE ADMITTED TO UN UNDER NAME OF SINGLE INTEGRAL STATE. STATEMENT FURTHER CALLED FOR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE TIES BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND JAPAN AND, AT SAME TIME, URGED WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS FROM ROK. JSP AND NORTH KOREAN WORKERS PARTY WERE CITED AS OPPOSED TO MOVES UNDERMINING DEVELOPMENT OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN TOKYO AND PYONGYANG AND AS URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. STATEMENT ALSO PLEDGED PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SPORTS AND SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE BETWEEN JAPAN AND NORTH KOREA.

3. ACCORDING TO PRESS, IN COURSE OF TALKS JSP LEADERS DECLARED THAT, AS IN UPPER HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS, LDP WAS IN STATE OF DECLINE AND REFORMIST POWER RISING. PARTY LEADERS ALSO PROMISED EFFORT TO BUILD PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT TO STOP GOJ "COLLUSION" WITH AND ECONOMIC AID TO ROK. NORTH KOREANS REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THEY AGREED THAT THERE WAS COLLUSION BETWEEN "SOME" REACTIONARY ELEMENTS IN JAPAN AND PARK REGIME WHICH AIMED AT THWARTING REUNIFICATION, BUT THAT THEY DID NOT EXPECT ANY CHANGE IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. NORTH KOREANS, ACCORDING PRESS, ALSO DESCRIBED FOREIGN MINISTER KIMURA'S REMARKS TO EFFECT ROK NOT SOLE LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT ON KOREAN PENINSULA AND THAT THERE WAS NO THREAT TO ROK FROM NORTH AS "MARKING ONE STEP FORWARD." PYONGYANG LEADERS ALSO REPORTEDLY DEMANDED THAT GOJ ADOPT EQUI-DISTANT DIPLOMACY BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND SOUTH KOREA. YOMIURI (SEPTEMBER 12) SAID THAT REFERENCE TO "STEP FORWARD" AND NORTH KOREA DESIRE FOR CHANGED ATTITUDE BY GOJ MERIT SPECIAL ATTENTION. IN ADDITION, OTHER PAPERS PLAYED UP THEMES OF NORTH'S DEDICATION TO PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION, LACK OF REFERENCE TO JAPANESE MILITARISM, AND WARM RECEPTION ACCORDED VISITORS. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 12030 170937Z

5. COMMENT: PRESS HAS TENDED TO PORTRAY VISIT AS SUCCESSFUL ONE, MARKED BY SHOW OF REASONABLENESS AND DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH JAPAN ON PART OF NORTH KOREANS. WE SHOULD HAVE BETTER FEELING FOR HOW CLOSE TO MARK THIS ASSESSMENT IS AFTER WE HAVE CHANCE TO TALK TO JSP CONTACTS IN DAYS AHEAD.
HODGSON

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